

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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June 3, 2003

**FROM:** MARK H. UFFER, Director  
Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

**SUBJECT:** TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER OF LIFE COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve transfer agreement with The Water of Life Community Outreach, Inc., which will allow for the continuity of care and timely transfer of patients and records from The Water of Life to the Medical Center, effective June 3, 2003 through March 24, 2006.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** On certain occasions, critically ill, injured or burn victim patients require specialized care and services beyond the scope of services available at the admitting healthcare facility. Optimal care of these patients may require a transfer from one healthcare facility's emergency or inpatient department to a specialized healthcare facility, which is outfitted for a higher level of critical care or trauma services with specially trained tertiary-level-care staff.

State and Federal mandates require that when a specialized healthcare facility with the ability to provide a patient with a higher level of care is contacted by an admitting hospital that is unable to provide optimal care for a patient, the specialized healthcare facility must accept the transfer of the critically ill patient. An established transfer agreement between the two facilities is the most efficient and practical way to facilitate transfer of these patients. These transfer agreements outline the responsibilities of each facility in regards to the transfer of patients, including physician communications, transfer of medical records, transportation requirements, etc.

Although ARMC is mandated to accept patients requiring a higher level of care, the California Health and Safety Code, various federal and state laws, and certain regulatory agencies require less specialized healthcare facilities such as skilled nursing facilities, mental health facilities, etc., to have signed transfer agreements with a specialized healthcare facility to allow for the medically necessary transfer of patients to that facility.

The Water of Life Community Outreach, Inc. has requested a transfer agreement between with the Medical Center. The Water of Life Community Outreach, Inc. is a mobile medical clinic that will travel throughout San Bernardino County to treat patients for minor ailments. Patients requiring a higher level of care will be referred to the Medical Center for treatment. For tracking purposes, this agreement expires on March 24, 2006, which is consistent with the other transfer agreements the Medical Center currently has in effect.

This is a standard agreement, which will facilitate the continuity of care and timely transfer of patients and records between facilities. All patient transfers shall be made in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, standards of regulatory agencies, and reasonable policies and procedures of the facilities.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles J. Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on April 10, 2003, and HSS Administration (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst) on May 22, 2003.

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**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Pursuant to these Agreements, all charges incurred with respect to any services performed by either facility for patients received from the other facility, shall be billed and collected by the facility providing such services directly from the patient, third party coverage, Medicare or Medicaid, or other sources normally billed by that facility. Actual revenues collected will depend upon the patients' financial ability to pay.

**COST REDUCTION REVIEW:** The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval since transfer of patients will be made in compliance with state and federal mandates and these agreements yield no financial impact upon the County.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** Although Water of Life Community Outreach, Inc. is located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, the mobile clinic will be traveling throughout the County, thereby affecting constituents from all Supervisorial Districts.

**PRESENTER:** Mark H. Uffer, Director, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, 580-6150

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